



This day is Published,
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Celebrated Criminal Trials in Scotland,

From A. D. 1536 to 1784.
WITH HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL REMARKS.
By HUGO ARNOT, Esq; Advocate.

The great number of the Subscribers—the incompleteness of their designations, and the uncertainty as to their places of abode, lay the Author under the necessity of requesting that Subscribers will send for their copies to his house, Prince's Street, or to the shop of Mr William Gibb, book-feller, Parliament House, where receipts are left for the price; and that nobody will pay their subscriptions to any chairman, porter, &c. without getting a receipt signed by the Author.

COUNTY OF FORFAR.

THE Clerk of the Peace gives this intimation, That he has received a new Commission of the Peace for that county, which will be produced at Forfar, on Thursday the 1st day of September next, when the Noblemen and Gentlemen may have an opportunity to accept. A List of the Names of the Noblemen and Gentlemen in the Commission may be seen in the Sheriff-Clerk's Office in Forfar, the Town-Clerk's Office in Dundee, and with the Clerk of the Peace at Brechin.

STOLEN OR STRAYED

FROM a Park at the Mains of Balindary, in the neighbourhood of Forfar, Kintyre, and Glamis, upon Thursday the 11th instant, a Handsome BROWN HORSE, about four years old, in good condition, and of a pretty stout make, betwixt 14 and 15 hands high, with a neck rather thick, and few white hairs in his forehead; His tail nicked, with a long rump, but which he does not carry well.

Any person who can give information, so as to lead to a discovery, by applying to William Badenach merchant in Glamis, or to Messrs Badenach and Duncan, merchants, Dundee, will be handsomely rewarded, and all expences paid.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

THESE are to intimate to all the Creditors of JOHN EASTON Master at Carronshore, and ALEXANDER EASTON Distiller at Seabeggs, that at a meeting of a number of their Creditors, held upon Saturday the 13th current, it was unanimously agreed, that a meeting of the Creditors of the said John and Alexander Eastons should be held within the house of Mrs Campbell vintner at Carron, upon Saturday next the 20th of August instant, at 12 o'clock mid-day, for the purpose of choosing a trustee, and settling other business relative to the funds; and as business of importance is then to be taken under the consideration of the Creditors, it is requested the whole Creditors will attend.

ALEX. MARRA, Factor.

Direct for St PETERSBURGH, BETSEY AND BROTHERS,

(A New Ship)
DAVID WISHART Master,
WILL be ready to sail from Leith, 23d August. She sails remarkably fast, and has excellent accommodation for passengers.

For freight or passage, apply to Peter and Francis Forrester, and Company, Leith—
Who have for sale, FLAX, HEMP, ASHES, TALLOW, and IRON.

AT LONDON, THE LOVELY MARY, RICHARD GARDNER (for William Beaton) Master,

Lying at Hawley's Wharf, taking in goods for Leith, Edinburgh, and all places adjacent, and will sail the 27th current.

The Master to be spoke with at the New-England Coffeehouse, Threadneedle Street, by the Royal Exchange, at 'Change hours; mornings and evenings on board the ship.

For Charlestown, in South Carolina State, AT KINCARDINE,

The ROBERT and MARY,

A new Brig now fitting out with all expedition, and will be ready to take in goods by the 20th of this month, intends to be at Leith the 15th of September to call for goods and passengers, to sail from thence the 20th, wind and weather serving. As the ship is built on purpose for the trade, passengers may depend on being well accommodated.

For freight or passage apply to the owner Robert Hutchison at Kincardine, or the following gentlemen, Mr James Izett, Bridge-Street, Edinburgh; Mr John Learmonth, merchant, Leith; Mr John Dalgleish, merchant, Boness, or Mr Alexander Duncan, clerk to the Carron Company, Grangemouth, or Seabock. Letters addressed to any of the above will be properly attended to.

The owner wants a number of Mechanics of all sorts to indent for Carolina, and will give good encouragement to those having good recommendations.

FOR CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA,

The Ship MARGARET,

ARCHIBALD BOGG Master,
NOW ready to take goods on board, at Greenock; and will be clear to sail by the 5th of September next.

The Margaret has good accommodation for passengers, and her time of sailing may be depended on.

For freight or passage, apply to Alexander Houston and Company in Glasgow, or Malcolm, Ritchie, and Leitch, in Greenock. Aug. 6. 1785.

FOR SALE,

THE SLOOP ELISABETH,

Six years old, plantation built, 45 tons burden more or less; drawing from five to six feet water when fully loaded, as she presently lies in the harbour of Leith.

The inventory, and particulars to be known by application to Gavin Kemp merchant in Leith, or to Captain Stevenson on board.

EXTRACT from the case of GEORGE CUMMING, Writer in Edinburgh, for the murder of Patrick Falconer, soldier in Lord Lindesey's regiment, A. D. 1695, in ARNOT'S CRIMINAL TRIALS, p. 172. §. ult. et seq.

THE Jury returned this verdict: "They, all in one voice, find proven, that some words falling out be-

"tween George Cumming the pannell, and three soldiers, in the West Port, in the month of September, 1695, the soldiers drew their bayonets, and advanced to the said George, who, when the soldiers were within the length of his sword, drew the same, and, defending himself, Patrick Falconer, one of the three soldiers, was killed; whereby the affize finds the pannell guilty of manslaughter." The Court sentenced the PRISONER TO BE HANGED, AND HIS PERSONAL ESTATE TO BE FORFEITED.

To condemn an innocent man to death, by the sentence, and forms of law, has ever been looked upon as one of the greatest moral evils. From the general aversion of mankind to inflict undeservedly the pain, and what is infinitely worse, the ignominy of a public death, I hope it is a case which has rarely happened, except through the bloody ministers of clerical superstition, and imperial power; the last of which makes a sport of life and liberty; while the first claims a still wider dominion, over life, liberty, and understanding; over liberty not only of action, but of thought.

To maintain that there is no difference, in the degree of moral turpitude, between a deliberate murder, and a rencounter originating from sudden provocation and terminating in death, is to contradict the perceptions of the understanding, and the feelings of the heart: And it does not appear, that, in this article, the old law of Scotland was repugnant to our judgment or our feelings. The absurd proposition, that there is no distinction between murder and manslaughter, between deliberate assassination and killing of a suddenly, appears to be of no older date than the restoration. At that period our courts of law became highly tyrannical; and those which possessed a criminal jurisdiction displayed what, indeed, was no novelty in this country, a very sanguinary spirit. A celebrated lawyer, who scrupled not to sacrifice abilities and principle at the shrine of despotism, has left a specimen of his attempt entirely to set aside trial by jury. The mode of proceedings in our criminal courts, in the tyrannical and turbulent reign of Charles II. by the address of the king's counsel, underwent a material innovation. In our records previous to this era, juries are found to have returned a general verdict of guilty, or not guilty; the words of stile were, "sift culpable and convicted," or, "clean and acquit." But, after the restoration, prosecutions became so frequent against rebels, covenanters, and attendants upon conventicles, that it was matter of difficulty to get a jury to find a verdict against a state criminal, particularly an attendant upon conventicles. His Majesty's Advocate, to evade this reluctance, fell upon a device which almost totally annihilated the powers and purposes of a jury. It was, to introduce a doctrine, that, in no case whatever, the jury had a right to exercise their judgment upon any point, except the evidence relating to the different facts charged in the indictment: That, in every case, they were to decide merely upon the fact; and that it was the province of the judges to determine the import of their verdict, in the scale of guilt, from a capital crime down to pure innocence: That, therefore, it was the business of the jury not to find guilty or not guilty, but proved, or not proved; and to apply such findings to the different charges, trifling or important, exhibited in the indictment.

The lawyers for the Crown devised another expedient which degraded juryman from the palladium of liberty, to a senseless instrument of tyranny; an expedient which vested the power of convicting in the judges, when the jury doubted not only of the criminality of the fact, but even of the fact itself. For this purpose they drew up their indictments very circumstantially, not only stating the crime, but also the minute facts, trifling or important, from which they inferred the prisoners guilt; and, upon these indictments, the Court used to pronounce an interlocutor, finding either the crime in general, or the facts and circumstances specially libelled, relevant to infer the pains of law. When it was suspected that a jury would scruple to find a crime in general proved, they were required to return a special verdict. Accordingly, they were often weak enough to return a verdict finding proved a long chain of circumstances specified in the indictment, leaving it entirely in the breast of the judges to determine whether these circumstances did establish the fact libelled.

Thus, in the trial of Robert Carmichael schoolmaster, for the murder of one of his scholars, a son of Douglas of Dornock, it was proved that the boy was in perfect health at two in the afternoon, when he went to school, and that before three he was carried out of it dead. It was found by the jury that the prisoner did three times successively make the deceased be held up, and severely lashed him on the back and hips, "and in rage and fury, did drag him from his desk, and did beat him with his hand upon the head and back, with heavy and fore strokes, and after he was out of his hands he immediately died." That, after the boy's death, the side of his head was swelled, and there were livid marks on it; and the mark of many stripes on his back and thighs.—Although these circumstances, as well as a rattling noise in his breast upon the third beating, and a good quantity of blood being found under his body after death, (which had issued from the stripes on his back,) afford complete conviction that he died of the beating; yet the lenity of this Court in this instance seemed to increase with the barbarity of the criminal, for they only sentenced him—to receive seven stripes, and to be banished Scotland for life.

It is obvious, that, from the moment these iniquitous doctrines were acquiesced in, the palladium of liberty was gone. Facts might be charged, of which the guilt, or degree of guilt, depended solely upon the intention which directed them. A fact might be indisputable; yet the intention of the accused might be justifiable, or at least might not amount to the degree of criminality charged in the indictment; yet by this doctrine the jury would be mere cyphers, the Court alone would decide.—Facts of the most criminal nature, circumstances trifling

a Prisoner.

b Sir George Mackenzie. Arnot's Hist. of Edinburgh, p. 149.

c Mackenzie's Criminals, tit. Affizur.

d The body of the deceased was not opened.

e Records of Judiciary, January 15. 16. 19. 1700.

or indifferent, might be blended in one indictment; and in such a case, a special verdict would leave the prisoner at the mercy of the Court, which it is the grand purpose of trial by jury to prevent.—I have discovered an instance of the Court's actually taking advantage of a circumstance of this sort. In the trial of Captain Douglas, and two other men, for committing a rape on Christian Davidson, the jury found "the violent ravishing Christian Davidson, or being art and part thereof, not proven." But found, that, on the night libelled, Captain Douglas left, for three quarters of an hour, a company with which he was drinking; and that, on his return, he told the company, when challenged for his absence, *ut virginem deflorasset*, and showed his knee dirtied with mud.—The Court fined him in 300 merks.—There is another case in which the jury made an absolute surrender of their privileges. In the trial of Marion Lawton for child-murder; they found the prisoner not guilty, in respect of no probation; but in respect of the presumptions, remit the prisoner to the consideration of the Court.—The Court sentenced her to be whipped and banished.

In this case of Cumming, there were no circumstances to entitle the court to pronounce upon the prisoner the *poena ordinaria*, the ordinary penalty of murder.—The verdict of the jury set forth, that some words fell out between the prisoner and the soldiers; but did not find who gave rise to the verbal injury. But, supposing the opprobrious expressions used by the prisoner to have proceeded from mere wantonness, I apprehend it did not entitle three men, with drawn swords or bayonets, to assault one. And it cannot be maintained, without the height of absurdity, that this one, even after having used insolent language, was to stand tamely, and have his throat cut for his impertinence. The jury found that the prisoner, in defending himself, killed the deceased: The Court condemned the prisoner; therefore, the Court condemned a man to be hanged for defending himself. The same judges who sat on this trial pronounced the dreadful doom on the youth, who atoned with his blood, for entertaining, on religious matters, opinions dissident from those of the times.

How juries came to recover their dignity and importance, will be seen in the subsequent trial of Carnegie of Finhaven.

f Records of Judiciary, 8. 22. 23. Feb. 1697.

g Rec. of Just. 1st Aug. 1662.

h With the exception of James Falconer, Lord Phelto, who sat not on the trial of Aikenhead. Thomas Aikenhead, a young man of about twenty years of age, who was tried, condemned, and executed, for denying the Trinity, and the authority of the scriptures, and for maintaining the eternity of the world. See *infra* Blasphemy, Aikenhead.

L O N D O N.

The Dutch mails received yesterday at the Post Office, and dated the 5th instant, give the following account of what passed at Vienna, at the interview between the Emperor and the Dutch Plenipo.

After having gone through the previous ceremony of explaining to the Prince of Metternich, the King's plenipotentiary, their mission, their Excellencies Count Kinsky, Count de Barón Van Leyden, were admitted to the Imperial presence, when the former delivered himself in the following words:

S I R,

"We have the honour to offer to your Imperial and Royal Majesty, the sentiments of the high regard, attachment, and respect, which their High Mightinesses ever entertained for the august family; but particularly for the sacred person of your Majesty; sentiments from which they have never deviated. We are directed to render new assurances thereof to your Majesty, and in acquitting ourselves of this our duty, we have the honour to give the utmost certitude that their High Mightinesses could not see, without emotion and concern, the very appearance of coolness which threatened an interruption of that friendship and blessed harmony which have at times subsisted between your Imperial Majesty and the Republic.—That their High Mightinesses never could harbour the most distant intention of giving offence to your Imperial and Royal Majesty, or insulting your flag, since it remains a fact, that they have made it their business, through the whole tenor of their conduct, and in their successive circumstances, to square all such measures as their security, uncontrollable rights, and their dignity, enforced by the regard and consideration to which your Majesty is entitled. That their High Mightinesses are most ardently desirous to restore quickly that harmony so unluckily interrupted, and to fix it upon the firmest basis: their intention having always been to treat your subjects in the same manner as they act by their own.—That after their expressing their real sentiments, their High Mightinesses flatter themselves, that assurances, so unequivocal, will already demonstrate the absolute impossibility of their having been guilty of any insulting views, with which they may have been unjustly charged; but which the regard they profess for your Imperial and Royal Majesty, would never permit them to admit of.

"It is in consequence of these their real sentiments, Sir, that the first and primary wish of their High Mightinesses, is for the restoration of the good understanding between your Majesty and them, which they warmly hope will be affected under the auspices of a Monarch, who, by the most endearing tie, is the friend and ally of your Imperial and Royal Majesty. Happy event, which cannot take place too soon for the wishes of their High Mightinesses, who never did, not at any time will, vary in the just value at which they have always rated the friendship and good-will of your Imperial Majesty towards the Republic."

To this the Emperor was pleased to give the following answer:

"I am greatly pleased that the States-General by deputed you, Gentlemen, have taken a step, which I had insisted upon as a preliminary to any accommodation. I shall immediately send orders to my Ambassador at Versailles, to resume the negotiations under the mediation of the King of France, my ally and brother-in-law; and I make no doubt but a speedy conclusion will effectually prevent the disagreeable consequences inseparable from further delays."



From the London Papers, August 11.

Presbourg, July 20. Last Monday the sky was at several times so obscured as to resemble the darkness of the night.— Each of these kind of eclipses was followed by a more violent torrent of rain than can be remembered; and during these deluges, the thunder and lightning were truly dreadful.

Paris, July 31. The ships l'Astrolabe and la Bouffolle, going out upon discoveries, quitted the road of Brest on the 22d with a favourable wind.

From the JAMAICA ROYAL GAZETTE.

Kingston, May 31. Although no accounts had been received which could be entirely depended on from the Musquito shore, respecting the progress of the dispute with the Spaniards, but such as involved us in thick clouds and darkness, yet we have now the satisfaction to assure the public, from indisputable authority, that a kind of treaty has been actually brought to perfection between the English and Spanish commanding officers, who had a meeting for that purpose in the town of Truxillo, which stipulates that the English settlers shall remain in quiet and peaceable possession of the country for two years to come, and that in the mean time proper measures shall be used by both parties to accelerate the conclusion of a special treaty between the courts of London and Madrid, for the final adjustment of every difference respecting the claims of either power to the territory in that quarter of the world.

The ship Diligence, Captain Hay, which arrived on Sunday last from Anamaboe with upwards of 400 slaves, was overtaken on her passage about two degrees to the southward of the Line with a dreadful thunder storm, in which a most awful flash of lightning struck the fore-top-gallant mast, which immediately fell upon deck, and killed eight of the slaves; seventeen others were so fatally wounded that they died in a short time afterwards.

Kingston, June 18. The French Governor of Hispaniola has lately published an edict, prohibiting the importation of spermaceti candles and flour, in foreign bottoms, into any of the harbours of that island under the dominion of his master, on pain of confiscation of both vessel and cargo. This edict is very severe and peremptory, and several Americans have already felt its utmost force. The exportation of sugar from that island in foreign vessels is also prohibited under the same penalty.

A letter from Augusta, in Georgia, dated April 7, says, a vast number of our settlers are removing to the Mississippi, in consequence of the Spaniards having delivered up the Natchez to our State; our Governor has sent forces to garrison it.

Amidst the distractions which reign in the middle states, the liberty of the press seems to be asserted in the most unequivocal manner: witness the following paragraph from the Independent Gazetteer of April 2. published at Philadelphia:

"A correspondent begs leave to observe, that the wicked, ungrateful, and abominable policy of the present assembly, bears a strong resemblance to the insatiable conduct of the Court of Great Britain at the beginning of the late war. Both imposed taxes on a people who were not represented, both violated and destroyed charters, which in all free countries are considered as sacred as private property, both treated petitions for a redress of grievances with the same insolence, neglect, and contempt, and both will probably experience a convulsion that will shake the Empire to the very centre."

L O N D O N, Aug. 11.

from Sir Robert Keith, his Majesty's Ambassador at the Court of Vienna. The messenger left that city about seventeen days ago. The Dutch Noblemen deputed by the States-General to confer with the Emperor, and finally to adjust the matter in dispute between the House of Austria and the Republic, were arrived; and had twice visited, and been visited by, the British Ambassador, who, as Envoy Plenipotentiary from the King of Great Britain, who is professedly one of the mediators in this business, was present at the first presentation of these Commissioners at the palace of Joseph the Second.

The last advices received from the Continent mention, that some great plan is in agitation between the Emperors and the Emperor, in consequence of which, couriers are continually passing between the two courts; but every thing is conducted with such secrecy, that all conjectures on the subject are uncertain. The most probable event seems to be an approaching rupture with the Turks, which it is said will begin with an early campaign next spring; but there are also rumours of exchange and alterations among some of the German Princes, which, as they will increase the strength of the Emperor, are looked on with a jealous eye by the King of Prussia, who, it is believed, already thinks him too powerful for the peace of the Empire, and therefore is making an immediate addition to his army.

A private letter from Lisbon advises, that the Queen of Portugal, with the unanimous concurrence of her Council, had dispatched a light frigate to Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, to stop, if possible, the sailing of the annual fleet which usually arrives about the beginning of October, laden with gold, silver, diamonds, and other precious stones; deer, elk, tiger, buffalo, &c. skins, dressed in the hair, medicinal drugs, dye stuffs, chocolate, coffee, cotton, sugars, and tobacco. The gazette which first announced this intelligence assigns no reason for these extraordinary orders; but it is no less certain that the packet has sailed with her Majesty's instructions to the Commodore on that station, and that the whole city seemed in great confusion when the letter came away, which is dated the 12th of July.

We are assured, that there is now in London, a Spanish American of great consequence, and possessed of the confidence of his fellow-citizens, who aspires to the glory of being the deliverer of his country. He is a man of sublime views and penetrating understanding, skilled in the ancient and modern languages, conversant in books, and acquainted with the world. He has devoted many years to the study of general politics; the origin, the progress, and the determination of the different species of governments; the circumstances that combine and retain multitudes of mankind in political societies; and the causes by which these societies are dissolved and swallowed up by others. This gentleman, having visited every province in North America, came to England, which he regards as the mother country of liberty, and the school for political knowledge. The pursuit he is said to be engaged in, calls for the good wishes of every friend to freedom.

The Spaniards have at last pacified the Algerines, and con-

cluded with that petty state a most ignominious peace, which they have been obliged to purchase with a considerable sum of money, and a large quantity of naval and military stores, which perhaps in a short time may be used against themselves. While the Spanish Commissioners were negotiating the above peace, the Venetians, Danes, and Swedes sent their annual tribute to them. The former paid theirs in hard money, the two latter chiefly in naval stores, &c. A short time before, an English and Dutch ship carried to Algiers their tributes also, consisting of great guns and ammunition, which were sent under the name of a present to the Dey, but are as complete a badge of subjection as ever one thus gave to another, though, perhaps, the value may not be very considerable.

In the time of Oliver Cromwell's usurpation, when the Algerines had taken some English ships because the usual presents had not been sent them, a fleet of men of war was fitted out under the command of Blake, who so effectually bombarded Algiers and Tunis, that he almost reduced them to ashes, and the Dey was glad to make great submissions to settle the dispute, which has to this day made them more afraid of the English than of any other nation.

A remonstrance has lately been presented to the House of Assembly of Pennsylvania, signed by a number of the inhabitants of Philadelphia, charging that and former Assemblies with violating the constitution in numerous instances which they recapitulate, and demanding a restitution of the powers and rights, which for several years past they say they have been and now are deprived of, by laws, framed in direct contradiction to the constitution.

A speedy conveyance of the mails through the kingdom is no doubt very desirable; but it must very greatly hurt the feelings of every humane person, to reflect, that it is done by the extreme sufferings of thousands of the most noble, willing, and generous animals of the brute creation, who, in consequence of it, are most cruelly whipped and run to death. The business might be as conveniently done by allowing more time, and without marking out at present too prevailing vice of sporting with the feelings of other creatures.

Yesterday the Russian Company, and several of the principal Russian merchants, gave an entertainment at the London Tavern to his Majesty's Secretaries of State, the Russian Ambassador, and divers of the nobility.

Yesterday, came on at the East India House, Leadenhall-street, the election for a Director of the East India Company, in the room of William Mills, Esq; who was disqualified; when Charles Mills, Esq; was chosen without opposition.

A prodigious increase of trade is projected by the East India Company. In the two last years, thirteen, and twenty-five ships, have been sent from this country; but next year it is proposed that the Company's equipment shall be extended to thirty-six ships, twenty-five of which are destined for China, or the tea trade;—an accumulation which must astonish our envious neighbours, and be attended with the most happy consequences to the trade of this nation!

The India Company have hitherto supplied but a trifling share of the teas consumed in this island; and this has been solely owing to the excessive high duties on that article. But now Great Britain has wisely reformed her policy, no longer suffering her duties to discourage the purchase of this article of the licensed dealers of our own country.

There have been eleven messengers to and from Paris since Thursday last; this certainly indicates something more between the two Courts than what has hitherto reached the public ear.

Eng. Chron. Orders are gone down from the Admiralty for putting in commission six additional ships of the line, four at Portsmouth and two at Plymouth, which are to be fitted and manned with all expedition.

This morning a press gang paraded on Tower Hill, with colours flying and music, where they picked up several able seamen as volunteers for the King's service.

This day's Portsmouth letters mention two houses of rendezvous for enlisting volunteers for the sea service being opened there; but that the officers, according to their instructions, engage only the best seamen.

Yesterday morning General Conway set off for his government of the island of Jersey, to take a view of the state of the fort and fortification there, in order for giving the necessary directions for repairs.

The French Ambassador has left a *charge des affaires*; nor is there any thing singular in his departure without a *conge*.—He is merely gone for the recovery of his health; and there is nothing in his jaunt to Spa, more than in his jaunt to Bath, though, perhaps, he may never return in the quality of Ambassador. His illness will occasion his recall.

Extract of a letter from Paris, August 6.

"Count D'Adhemar arrived yesterday from London, and immediately went to pay his respects to his Majesty and the Court. We learn, that this minister has not been able to settle the business on which he was particularly sent to England, respecting the regulations of commerce between the two kingdoms. Mr Crawford is still here."

PRICE OF STOCKS, AUGUST 11.
Bank Stock, 120½.
5 per cent. Ann. 91½ a 7.
4 per cent. Ann. 177 7½ a 7.
3 per cent. con. 57½ a 58.
3 per cent. red. 58½ a 59.
Long Ann. 17 13-16ths a 7.
Short Ann. 177 8, 12½ a 7-16ths.
3 per cent. Old Ann. 57½ a 7.
India Bonds, unpaid, 15 prem.
Navy Bills, 5 disc.
Lottery Tickets, 13 l. 13 s. 6 d. a 14 s.
WIND AT DEAL, August 9. W. N. W.

EDINBURGH.

Extract of a letter from London, Aug. 11.

"Their Majesties are at present at Windsor, as no Court will be held at St James's till Wednesday next, owing to the anniversary of the Prince of Wales's birth-day, which will be celebrated at Windsor with every mark of splendour suitable to the dignity of the heir apparent of the Crown of Great Britain.

"The Princess Elizabeth, who has lately been much indisposed, in consequence of eating mushrooms, is now perfectly recovered.

"His Majesty's indisposition is said to have been a severe cold, which soon produced a fever, and of so alarming a nature, as to occasion the Duke of Montague, who was then about the Royal person, to advise the sending for the Prince of Wales; but his Majesty happily found a good night's rest, and his health the next morning was pretty well re-established.

"A spirited memorial and remonstrance on the part of Great Britain has been sent off to the Court of V—, on the subject of her decrees respecting our commerce, and the naval armament lately fitted out. The Ministry, it is said, are determined to support the honour of the British flag, and not, on

any account, to suffer the House of Bourbon to ride triumphant on the ocean.

"The French, it is said, pretend, that part of the Brest fleet is intended for the East Indies, and part for the relieving their West-India stations; but the fact, it is said, is well known to be otherwise.

"Great numbers of officers of rank in the naval service are pretty constant in their attendance at the Admiralty-Office, with the humble tender of their services.

"Bella, horrida bella! is now the universal cry. Agents are sent down to the different sea-port towns, for the purpose of opening rendezvous for raising seamen to man the fleet, now fitting out at Spithead; and tenders are also placed in the River, to convey such seamen as may be enlisted here; and for whom drums are daily beat, and handsome bounties given.

"Those in the confidence of the Administration assert, that the proper measures are taken in a neighbouring kingdom, for preventing any ill consequences arising from any hostile intentions from a certain power, whose treacherous interference with America, caused us the loss of that invaluable continent.

"Ministry are said to have foreseen the storm approaching that at present clouds the political atmosphere, and threatens to involve all Europe in a general war; and it is now said to be owing to this, and not to the Irish Propositions, that Parliament has been adjourned only till October next.

"It is confidently reported to be from this cause alone, that a certain Great Personage did not attend the adjournment of Parliament, as it would have been very awkward for the R— Speech even to have glanced at it, while it might afterwards have been thought reprehensible in Ministry to have wholly neglected it.

"There is no truth in the report of John Gell, Esq; being appointed Commander in Chief of the British naval forces in the East Indies, that lucrative command being yet undisposed of."

Mr Robert Walkinshaw writer in Paisley, is appointed Sheriff-clerk of Renfrewshire, in room of Mr John Snodgrafs, deceased.

This morning, came on before the High Court of Justiciary, the trial of the Reverend Mr William Leslie, minister of the united parishes of St Andrews and Langbride, indicted at the instance of Alexander Penrose Cunningham of Ayr, Esq; for wilful and corrupt perjury, in the precise same terms with Mr Lawson, who was acquitted on Saturday last. After the indictment was read over by the clerk of Court, and the panel called upon to plead guilty or not guilty to the charge exhibited against him, Mr Leslie addressed the Court in nearly the following words:

"Persuaded, my Lords, that no man, who knows my character, can suppose me guilty of so mean a crime as perjury—while with indignation I bear such an ignominious aspersions, I remain superior to fear from this prosecution.

"When I contemplate that awful, that final tribunal, to which my own attention is so often directed—by the duties of that sacred office which I have undertaken to discharge, I remain satisfied that you, my Lords, and these my peers, the Gentlemen of the Jury, whom, though unknown to me, I regard as unprejudiced and well informed, will, in due time, vindicate my injured reputation, by an honourable and a fair acquittal.

"Leaving, therefore, the conduct of the proof, with the discussion of every objection against the formality of the conveyance to this freehold which the ingenuity of the prosecutor's counsel can devise, to these Gentlemen who have so warmly undertaken my cause, in conscious innocence, my Lords, I plead—not guilty.

"It may be deemed strange, my Lords, but it is nevertheless true, that I am forced into this singular situation from a regard alone to the principle of honour.

"The friends of the prosecutor, under pretence of regard to myself, laboured, by private intimation, and by public menace, to compel me to relinquish an important privilege which I considered myself to have acquired by a transaction of the fairest—of the most honourable nature.

"To have weakly abandoned this freehold, therefore, in consequence of their menace, would have been declaring to the world, that I could not support those principles which I had long avowed—that I could not maintain those privileges which, when unchallenged, I had so often exercised.

"Far, therefore, my Lords, from tampering with oaths, as was cruelly suggested in support of the title to maintain this prosecution, I am conscious that I have taken a most righteous oath in the just defence of my own privileges—in the necessary support of my own principles."

Mr Charles Hay afterwards addressed the Court, as counsel for the panel, upon the relevancy of the libel, in which he arraigned the conduct of the prosecutor in pretty severe terms, for still persisting in carrying on the present trial against a person of the panel's sacred character; especially as Mr Lawson, who stood exactly in a similar situation, had so recently been acquitted by a verdict of his country. Mr Hay concluded with hoping, that, at any rate, their Lordships would pronounce the same interlocutor upon the relevancy which had been given in the case of Mr Lawson.

The Hon. Henry Erskine followed Mr Hay, on the part of the prosecutor, and contended, in a long and elegant speech, that every part of the indictment was relevantly laid; and, therefore, that the Court fell to pronounce a general interlocutor, allowing the prosecutor to prove, that the panel's vote was a *nominal and fictitious* one; that he took the trust-oath under that conviction; and, consequently, that he was perjured.

Mr Erskine was supported by Mr Robert Blair, in a very able manner. He concluded with observing, that though he could find no flaw in the indictment, yet, if their Lordships were of a different opinion, and if it were found, that the prosecutor's present counsel were incapable of drawing up such an indictment as would found their Lordships in pronouncing the general interlocutor, rather than be cramped in the manner they had been by the one in Mr Lawson's case, other counsel, if such could be found in Scotland fit for the task, should be employed for that purpose, as his client was fully determined, as well for his own character, as for that of the panel's, to have the matter at issue between them fully and fairly determined by a verdict of his country; and this, Mr Blair observed, should be as much the wish of the panel as the prosecutor; because, without that, the betaking himself to a subterfuge of law, to avoid a fair discussion, could never have the effect of clearing his character from the crime laid to his charge, in the eyes of the world.

Mr George Ferguson replied, in a very masterly manner, for the panel. After which the Court, without giving any or

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pinion, ordered informations upon the pleadings. The information for the prosecutor to be lodged the 24th of September next; for the panel the beginning of November; and the Court to advise this stage of the cause the second Monday after the Court of Session meets in November next.

The fair, on the Cowhill, Newcastle, on Friday last, was, perhaps, the worst ever known, the number of cattle and buyers being very small. The show of horses, and particularly those of low value, was tolerably great.

The harvest is begun in the south and south east parts of the county of Durham, and the crops far exceed the farmers expectations.

The Chevalier de Madron, hydrographer, is exhibiting at Berlin a most curious representation of the periodical motion of the sea. The king of Prussia having written on the motion of water from the equator towards the poles, was not a little happy to see the Chevalier, and treats him with the highest respect.

A letter from Belfast, dated August 7th, says, "The ferment respecting the British resolutions encreases here every day, as people become more and more sensible of their pernicious tendency. I enclose you copy of a requisition, now signing by the most respectable inhabitants for a town meeting on Wednesday. Various measures are proposed to be submitted to that meeting, a second petition, or rather remonstrance to Parliament, praying them to reject those resolutions *in toto*, stating that they have no right or power, by the constitution, to give up or sacrifice our constitution or commercial rights, and declaring that if those, or any similar resolutions, infringing on both, or either, shall be passed into laws, we, for our parts, enter our solemn protest against them, and disclaim them as our act, fully determined, when time and circumstances shall suit, to co-operate with our virtuous countrymen, in any measures that may be necessary to resume our rights. Others talk of instructions to our representatives to the same purport; and some of an address to the Throne—but all seem to agree in opinion, that provincial meetings of the freeholders of Ireland, by deputation of a certain number from each county or town, should be held without delay; and it is probable, that on Wednesday some steps will be taken towards calling such a meeting of the freeholders at Dungannon."

Extract of a letter from Dublin, August 9.

"Yesterday there was a numerous and respectable meeting of the principal merchants and traders of this city at the Royal Exchange, when a petition was unanimously agreed upon to Parliament, praying that no further progress be made this session in the commercial adjustment. A petition from the General Chamber of Manufacturers has also been with like unanimity resolved upon. These two petitions, signed by the merchants, traders and manufacturers, will on Thursday next be presented to the House by our worthy representative, Travers Hartley, Esq.

"Mr Pitt's bill for a final adjustment of the trade between Great Britain and Ireland, is come over here in printed copies, and contains the whole letter and spirit of the twenty Propositions that have passed the Lords and Commons of Great Britain; especially the fourth. Mr Secretary O—e, it is said, intends, notwithstanding his positive directions, pursuant to the address of the British Parliament to the King, to lay the twenty propositions before our House of Commons, on Thursday, to produce only Mr Pitt's bill above mentioned, and move the House for leave to bring in a bill grounded thereon.

"The cattle runners have at last given up Mr Pitt's commercial system as far as it relates to the resumption of legislation; it was a ground they were unable to maintain on any pretence; but say they, as something must be done to prevent the Minister's disgrace, a bill must be brought in, grounded on all the Propositions except the fourth, the tenor of which, Mr Pitt will, by a majority in the British Commons, be able to have expunged from his bill; and by this means every thing will go on smoothly, that is, in other words, the nineteen remaining Propositions, which not only breathe the spirit of the fourth, but contain a system of coercion and oppression, unmatched in the annals of mankind, will be acceded to by the P— of Ireland, and the R—ves of the people join with those in a sister country to stab the commerce and constitution of Ireland to the heart.

FOR THE CALEDONIAN MERCURY.

TO THE LANDED INTEREST OF SCOTLAND.

GENTLEMEN,
THE situation of the Distillery in Scotland demands your immediate attention.

France has passed an *arrêt*, prohibiting all British goods from being imported into that kingdom, without the payment of very high duties, under severe penalties, which, from the well-known police of that country, will be strictly put into execution.

Smuggling of French brandies, and other foreign spirits, into every part of this country, is at present carried on with impunity, to a most enormous extent, and, if not speedily prevented, will soon supply the whole demand for spirits in the Scotch market.

The great encouragement which smuggling of foreign spirits has of late received, is the consequence of an act passed in the last session of Parliament, whereby the premiums formerly given to officers for seizing spirits, were in a manner taken away. The effect of this is, that few or no seizures have since been made; nor is it reasonable to expect that it can be otherwise, when it is considered, that it would be foolish in any man to take trouble, run risks, and expend money upon informations, &c. without any adequate compensation. Hence it is, that French brandies and Dutch gin are just now delivered, not only around the whole Scotch coast, but into every part of the interior country where spirits are used, (and even in Edinburgh and Glasgow) upon better terms to the consumer than any British spirits which pay the duties can be afforded at; the truth of which the Board of Excise cannot but be well acquainted with; and yet it is not understood that any effectual measures are likely to be taken by them for the prevention of these great and still growing evils.

The Board, finding the present Distillery law defective, with respect to the premiums that it should have allowed to officers for detecting and seizing unentered stills, very properly, for the interest of the revenue, and those traders who paid the duties, granted a premium to the officers of 2s. 6d. *per* gallon upon the content of every illegal still that should be seized and destroyed, which was productive of salutary effects to the entered trade.

Should not the Board of Excise, as governors of the revenue, give reasonable premiums in the same manner, for the trouble and expence of the officers in seizing spirits, when they

see the intention of the law defeated? or, if they do not consider themselves at liberty to grant these premiums, ought they not to apply directly for authority to do so, until an alteration in the law can be made?

If this was done, and were the landed gentlemen and farmers around the coast to give their assistance to the revenue officers, the evils complained of would soon be at an end.

Until the great impulse to smuggling of foreign spirits into this country is counteracted, would it not be sound policy to give every possible encouragement to the Distillery at home, that the sale of British spirits may be promoted in opposition to those from abroad?

The British Distillery opens a market for our grain—produces a revenue to Government—and employs a very great number of hands to carry on the manufacture.

To consume foreign spirits encourages the manufacture of other nations—drains money from this country to France and Holland—and, in short, encourages a traffic so pernicious to the interests of this country, that no illustration is requisite to shew the necessity of its being put a stop to.

In place of the Board of Excise having adopted such or similar measures to prevent foreign smuggling as are above hinted, not one step (so far as has yet transpired to the public) has been taken to bring that about. On the contrary, it is now said, with certainty, that the Board has issued, or is about to issue, the most severe orders to their officers that can be devised, to distress the entered distillery of this country, which, if put into execution, will soon entirely ruin a branch of business, that is now paying a very great revenue—greater than can reasonably be expected, considering the opposition it meets with, and the very low prices British spirits must be sold for, not to be altogether excluded from the market.

It is a fact, that every distiller in Scotland, who has been carrying on the business, has lost money by it for these twelve months past, owing to the prices of spirits being so much reduced.

1st, By the low price of foreign spirits, and the facility with which they are conveyed through every part of the country.

2dly, By the great quantities of spirits made in small unentered stills, which pay no duties. And,

3. By the great influx of spirits from Fairintosh, which pay no duties.

The entered Distillery of Scotland will very soon have another formidable opponent to combat, viz. the new exemption granted to the Highland counties, whereby every licensed 40 gallon still will have a premium to make spirits. No malt-duty is to be paid by them. The 20s. per gallon of annual licence-duty is in full both of spirit and malt-duty. The malt-duty of itself, if fairly paid, (reckoning from the quantity, admitted by the gentlemen who applied for the exemption that a still of forty gallons could consume) would exceed the sum paid for the license by 8 l. 10 s. at least, which is that of an exemption out of the malt-duty, that they may make their *spirits duty-free*; but it is well known, that that quantity is merely nominal, and not above one half of what it will actually be.—It will be next to impossible to make the Highlanders pay for what they exceed the statutory quantities; and it will be impossible to prevent them from sending their spirits to the low country. A part of them will even find their way into the English market. A mode of conveyance will be found out. The object will be tempting; and the influx of spirits made from these stills, into the market of the entered distiller, will soon be very great; against which there is no proper security given by the present laws.

Taking all these circumstances into view, and considering the peculiar hardships under which the entered Distillers groan, what kind of policy would it be in the Board, to enforce all the severities laid to be under their contemplation, until the evils pointed out are corrected? An increase of revenue cannot be the consequence of such measures; the contrary will be the case. But admitting that to be the motive, would it not be wiser in the Board, by every means to suppress the smuggler, before oppressing the entered Distiller, and obliging him to quit his business?

It certainly would be the worst of policy for the legislature to impose greater hardships upon any manufacture from which a revenue is expected, than it is able to bear; the Scotch Distillery already labours under many severe hardships.

The corn Distillery of this country, properly considered, is the great to-look of the landed interest and of the farmer; it encourages agriculture, and affords a market for the produce. In this view, the legislature and the landed interest are equally interested, the one to support the revenues of the kingdom, the other to support their own patrimonial interests, with which the former is inseparably connected.

A FRIEND TO SCOTLAND.

FOR THE CALEDONIAN MERCURY.

THE TRIFLER.—No. II.

AT an early age, I conceived a great liking to a red coat; and hurried through *Virgil*, I believe they call it, and some other books, to get into the army. When dressed in my uniforms, I contemplated myself in the glass with vast satisfaction. The height of my ambition was to march with the regiment, with my spontoon in my hand, my sword by my side, drums beating, colours flying! Add to this, the figure I cut in company, with the assistance of a fierce countenance, and blood and wounds judiciously mixed with discourse! I thought myself very smart, as all the world did likewise. The poor love-sick ladies gazed at me from the windows, God help and bless them! I found no difficulty in making conquests: My epaulet killed and wounded one thousand rank and file of the feminine gender: My cockade did dreadful havoc, not to mention the various successes done by the vest, breeches, and gold-lace. In short, I carried fire and sword (vulgarly called *flames and darts*) wherever I went: The dear young things trembled with delight at my approach: They called me *Mars*, and I them *Venus*. Amidst these transporting joys, mortifying circumstances would happen: The name of *puppy* reached my ears several times. Even my Colonel would gloom at me when the barber detained me a little from the parade. Several officers of less merit, but more interest, pushed their way over my head. Though I had every preference from the females, I found very little civility from the males. An impertinent friend of mine the other day told me, point blank to my face, that the tailor made me a soldier. I said, "Demme, you 'scoundrel—blood and wounds!" and drew my sword to convince him he was a fool. He, forsooth, values himself upon his learning, and holds forth, that no man can be a soldier, or a gentleman, or any thing, without being a scholar;—that he

must know the languages and sciences;—he must be an engineer;—he must be this, and must know that. In faith, to be ingenious, I thought if I could carry a mallet, and fire it upon occasion; if I could whore, drink, dance, swear, knock down any person staring at me, kick up a dust in the Theatre, or such like, I might pass through very well, as times go. He says, that none, who were not famous for their learning and other accomplishments, ever arrived at great commands. He talks of one Cæsar, and Pompey, and Hannibal, and Epaminondas, and the devil knows what; some Jewish Greeks, I suppose, or Turkish Nabobs. "My business is to fight, not to 'make speeches, demme!" and drew my sword:—By-the-by, the hilt is exceedingly well-polished; it shines like the sun itself. I told Miss ———— the other day, that nothing exceeded the brightness of her eyes but the sun and this same hilt. Was it not cleverly said, Sir? I can be witty upon occasion. I know what's what as well as Pompey, demme! To be sure, had I known in time, I might have mustered some more knowledge of gunnery, and such sort o' thing. It is too late now; besides my head is not over-well calculated to make calculations. I have some others to keep me in countenance; but these are dull, heavy, stupid fellows, in comparison. There is no help for it; we must submit to see others, possessed of a little more skill, advanced and distinguished. We may submit the more easily, as the ladies are so good as prefer us, humble and unambitious men, to all others: To gallant, kiss, talk, and do every thing in a genteel manner, is duty enough, in all conscience. *Ayant!* ye high-poring num-skulls, who think of nothing but the very pinnacle of fame, making breaches, pulling down, and building up. "Be mine the softer art to 'please."

I always take special care to keep my shoes and my teeth clean; I scent my napkin; the cock of my hat is uncommonly fine; I keep the best snuff; I have a most agreeable smirk; I press a lady's hand most exquisitely; I walk and speak *en militaire*; I scrape and pare my nails pointedly every morning before breakfast. In short, I do every thing to please and be pleased; and have no more to do than to desire any one of the fair sex to shew me her ———— rent-roll. I wish to dispose of myself, however, to the best advantage, as soon as possible.—Inquire at the Publisher for HERCULES THUNDERBOLT.

P. S. It is probable the highest offer will be preferred. Secrecy and constancy may be depended upon from a man of honour. H. T.

FOR THE CALEDONIAN MERCURY.

EPIGRAM FOR 1785.

WHEN Tragic SIDDONS * treads the Stage,

Commanding human passions,

No wonder the our Belles engage

To ape her in new fashions.

But none e'er dream'd that JEMMY DUFF†,

With crapes hung o'er his rump,

Would make our Ladies proud enough

To copy his example.

G. W. P. L. S. D. L.

* Mrs Siddons, the fam'd actress.

† Jemmy Duff, the idiot, who for many years walked in procession before every funeral in Edinburgh, with two crapes hanging down his back, each of them one yard long: But beginning to strut about the streets in a chain and medal, he was lodged in the Charity Workhouse, where he now remains.

ARRIVED AT LEITH, August 15. John and Catharine, Dingwall, from Gottenburgh, with deals and iron; Peggy, Ormond, from Riga and Dundee, with hemp and clapboards; Lady Charlotte, Ferrier, from the Canal, with tar; Mally, Brown, from Montrose, in ballast; Katharine and Isabella, Lyell, from Perth, with goods; Betty and Margaret, Miller, from ditto with grain; Friendship, Wright, from Findhorn, in ballast; Mafrey, Wright, from ditto with grain. SAILED. Four Sisters, Davidson; and Helena, Hanson, for Fredrickshall, in ballast.

—O—O—

GAME.

THE DUKE OF ROXBURGH being desirous to preserve the GAME, (on his estates in the counties of Roxburgh, Haddington, and Berwick) which is greatly decreased, and, in some places, almost extirpated by the severity of the late winters, hopes no Gentleman will shoot or sport thereon.

Game-keepers are appointed, who have strict orders to give information against all unqualified persons transgressing, who will be prosecuted as the law directs.

MONEY WANTED TO BORROW.

WANTED immediately TWO HUNDRED POUNDS Sterling. Heritable security will be given. For particulars enquire at James Laidlaw, clerk to the signet.

JUDICIAL SALE OF
LANDS IN AYRE-SHIRE,
BY ADJOURNMENT.

TO be exposed to public roup, under authority of the Court of Session, within the Parliament House, Edinburgh, upon Wednesday the 30th of November next, at five o'clock afternoon.

The following LOTS remaining unsold, of the Lands and Estate of PINMORE, and others, lying in the parishes of Colmonnel, Barr, and Girvan, respectively, and county of Ayr, as under, viz.

Lot II.—Containing the Farm of Balbeg and Lamdutchy, Laggan-gill, and Heads of M'Lurgston; the free rent whereof, after all deductions, is proven to be 72 l. 9 s. 11 d. 9-12ths; to be exposed at the reduced upset-price of 1450 l. These lands contain about 550 acres, highly improvable by lime from Balbeg. Lamdutchy is returned to a 40 s. land, and Balbeg to a two-merk land of old extent.

Lot III.—Containing the Lands of Pinclunty, and Mill thereof, and Merk Land, *alias* M'Lurgston; the free rent whereof, after all deductions, is 45 l. 18 s. 4 d.; to be exposed at the reduced upset-price of 900 l. These lands contain near 300 acres; the farm of Pinclunty is very low let; M'Lurgston is returned to a two-merk, and Pinclunty to a one-merk land.

Lot V.—Crongart and Knockglais; the free proven rent whereof, after all deductions, is 34 l. 10 s. 6 d.; to be exposed at the reduced upset-price of 700 l.

The whole of the above lands hold blench of the Prince, excepting Balbeg, which holds feu of the Crown.

The tiends of the whole lands are valued, but the tiends of those lands only which lie in Colmonnel parish are saleable.

Lot VII.—A tack of the Lands of Kilpatrick, Balcon, and Mac-lechrishton, lying in the said parish of Girvan, set by Mr Boyd of Penkill to Mr Kennedy. The surplus rent drawn after all deductions, is proven to be 36 l. 17 s. 7 d. 8-12ths; to be exposed at the reduced upset price of 200 l. The principal tack expires at Whitunday 1804, and the purchaser is to have right to the tack-duties from Whitunday 1785.

Lot VIII.—A Tack of the Lands of Dalsfalk and Laggan, lying in the said parish of Girvan, set by Mr Hamilton of Bargany to Mr Kennedy; the free surplus rent whereof, after all deductions, is proven to be 67 l.; to be exposed at the reduced upset-price of 700 l. The principal tack expires at Whitunday 1820, and the purchaser's entry is to be at Whitunday 1785.

The title-deeds, rental, and articles of roup, may be seen in the office of Mr George Kirkpatrick, depute-clerk of Session; for further information apply to Archibald Tod writer to the signet, agent in the sale.

